



July 27, 2020

**COVID-19 Weekly Testing Summary**

On May 1, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) released its COVID-19 [Strategic Testing Plan](#) for Oregon. The Strategic Testing Plan includes the following goals:

1. *Test more people living in Oregon for COVID-19 based on [testing guidance](#), which was last updated on June 30. This guidance recommends testing all people with symptoms, and, if resources are limited, recommends prioritizing certain groups including people in congregate living settings, the elderly, pregnant women, essential workers, people whose first language is not English, and people who identify as Black, African American, Latinx, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Asian American, Pacific Islander, or as having a disability. The guidance includes testing considerations for asymptomatic people with exposure to COVID-19 and other vulnerable populations.*
2. *Use all available resources in Oregon, so all symptomatic people are tested for COVID-19.*

The Strategic Testing Plan is an essential component of active surveillance, which includes case investigation and contact tracing, to better understand and stop the spread of disease.

*Summary of Oregon test results through 7/25/2020*

	Pre-2/28	2/29-3/6	3/7-3/13	3/14-3/20	3/21-3/27	3/28-4/3	4/4-4/10	4/11-4/17	4/18-4/24	4/25-5/1	5/2-5/8	5/9-5/15	5/16-5/22	5/23-5/29	5/30-6/5	6/6-6/12	6/13-6/19	6/20-6/27	6/28-7/5	7/6-7/12	7/13-7/18	7/19-7/25	Total to date
<b>Positive</b>	1	12	35	66	348	437	472	414	392	402	453	438	255	304	413	765	1,137	1,441	2,117	1,638	2,292	1,837	15,669
<b>Negative</b>	3	122	466	1,460	7,050	7,434	9,318	8,683	8,779	12,282	14,028	16,349	15,433	17,143	20,126	22,136	26,534	32,183	37,797	26,676	37,009	36,342	357,353
<b>Total results</b>	4	134	501	1,526	7,398	7,871	9,790	9,097	9,171	12,684	14,481	16,787	15,688	17,447	20,539	22,901	27,671	33,624	39,914	28,314	39,301	38,179	373,022
<b>% positive</b>	25.0%	9.0%	7.0%	4.3%	4.7%	5.6%	4.8%	4.6%	4.3%	3.2%	3.1%	2.6%	1.6%	1.7%	2.0%	3.3%	4.1%	4.3%	5.3%	5.8%	5.8%	4.8%	4.2%

*\*The summary of Oregon test results time frame has shifted to match with CDC's MMWR report week, which is reported Sundays through Saturdays.*

As of July 25, Oregon's cumulative positive testing rate is 4.2% of tests performed. This is considerably lower than the national average of 10%. The number of tests performed each week has generally been holding steady, but supply chain issues continue to restrict Oregon's testing capacity, as discussed below. The number of positive cases and the test positivity rate

have been increasing since late May, but this week saw the first decline in test positivity since then OHA is monitoring testing trends closely.

#### *Testing capacity, testing turnaround times and supply chain issues*

The Oregon State Public Health Laboratory (OSPHL) monitors testing capacity and supply allocations for in-state laboratories. The most recent weekly in-state theoretical testing capacity estimate is 48,000 tests for the week of July 22 based on supply, reagent and staff availability. This does not include capacity at out-of-state commercial laboratories, such as Quest, Labcorp or ARUP.

Several major manufacturers have informed OHA that testing supply allocation to OSPHL and clinical labs in Oregon may be reduced over the coming weeks due to the recent spike in positive COVID-19 cases nationally and increased demand for testing. These shortages are being addressed through testing on multiple platforms and recruiting additional laboratories for testing.

We are receiving widespread reports of extended turnaround time from commercial laboratories; in some cases, results are being reported up to two weeks following specimen collection. A list of additional COVID-19 testing laboratories has been distributed via HAN to local health authorities.

#### *Testing resources*

OHA continues to facilitate requests on behalf of local emergency managers for laboratory testing through Quest and LabCorp. Commercial testing requests by local emergency managers are made via the ECC's OpsCenter platforms.

The Oregon Public Health Clinical Laboratory Consortium is coordinating testing capacity for partner laboratories to perform testing for at-risk and vulnerable populations.

To prepare for the upcoming influenza season, OSPHL will be implementing a new CDC multiplex RT-PCR assay, which tests respiratory specimens for SARS-CoV-2, influenza A and influenza B. We hope to begin validating the assay in August.

Oregon is receiving periodic shipments of testing swabs, universal transport media for specimen collection kits, and certain testing instruments, supplies, and reagents from the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). These supplies are available for counties and tribes to request through their Emergency Managers using OpsCenter.

#### *Technical assistance*

The Oregon Public Health Clinical Laboratory Consortium meets weekly to share technical information, updates about testing efforts, and information about supply-chain barriers. OSPHL continues to provide technical assistance to laboratories working to implement COVID-19 testing. OHA continues to evaluate new COVID-19 testing platforms as they become available.